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COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
Fortieth session
11-22 March 1996
Agenda item 7

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON ITS FORTIETH SESSION

Draft report

Rapporteur: Sweeya SANTIPITAKS (Thailand)

Chapter ___

ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

A. Opening and duration of the session

1. The Commission on the Status of Women held its fortieth session at United Nations Headquarters from 11 to 22 March 1996. The Commission held ____ meetings. In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1995/29, the Commission also held a number of informal meetings of a working group on a draft optional protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

2. The session was opened by the Chairperson of the thirty-ninth session, Patricia Licuanan (Philippines), who also made a statement.

B. Attendance

3. The session was attended by representatives of ____ States members of the Commission. Observers for other States Members of the United Nations and for non-member States, representatives of organizations of the United Nations system and observers for intergovernmental, non-governmental and other organizations also attended. A list of participants is contained in annex ____ to the present report.

C. Election of officers

4. At its 1st and 2nd meetings, on 11 March 1996, the Commission elected the following officers by acclamation:

Chairperson: Sharon Brennen-Haylock (Bahamas)

Vice-Chairpersons: Ljudmila Boskova (Bulgaria)
Rafika Khouini (Tunisia)
Karin Stoltenberg (Norway)

Rapporteur: Sweeya Santipitaks (Thailand)

D. Agenda and organization of work

5. At its 1st meeting, on 11 March 1996, the Commission adopted its provisional agenda and approved its organization of work, as contained in document E/CN.6/1996/1. The provisional agenda read as follows:

1. Election of officers.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

3. Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women:

   (a) Mandate, methods of work and multi-year work programme of the Commission on the Status of Women;

   (b) Review of mainstreaming in organizations of the United Nations system;

   (c) Implementation of strategic objectives and action in the critical areas of concern:

      (i) Poverty;

      (ii) Women and the media;

      (iii) Child and dependant care, including sharing of responsibilities between men and women.

4. Communications concerning the status of women.

5. Elaboration of a draft optional protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

6. Provisional agenda for the forty-first session of the Commission.

7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its fortieth session.

6. At the 2nd meeting, on 11 March, the Vice-Chairperson of the Commission, Karin Stoltenberg (Norway), was appointed Chairperson of the working group to consider a draft optional protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. Ms. Stoltenberg was subsequently succeeded as Chairperson of the working group by Aloisia Worgetter (Austria).

E. Appointment of the members of a working group on communications on the status of women

7. At its 1st meeting, on 11 March 1996, the Commission decided to establish a working group to consider, under agenda item 4, communications regarding the status of women, pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1983/27. The following five members, nominated by their regional groups, were appointed:

Sabria Boukadoum (Algeria)
Fadi Karam (Lebanon)
Monica Martinez (Ecuador)
Zuzana Jezerska (Slovakia)
Sharon Kotok (United States of America)

F. Consultations with non-governmental organizations

8. Written statements submitted by non-governmental organizations in accordance with rule 76 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council (E/5975/Rev.1) are listed in annex ____ to the present report.